

## Farmer's Champoin

J. S. SOULE, Publisher

ELGIN,

OKLAHOMA

### OKLAHOMA NEWS NOTES

Sapulpa will soon have a mattress factory.

This brand of weather is the farmer's delight.

Dr. L. W. Cotton has entered the race for mayor of Enid.

Waurika is suffering from an epidemic of petty thievery.

Five prisoners sawed their way to liberty from the jail at Vinita.

This week promises to be an interesting one in legislative circles.

The opera house at Wagoner was damaged by fire to the extent of \$2,500.

Several new interurban railways are being built over the state—on paper.

Two new rural mail delivery routes out of Durant may soon be established.

Now there are more believers in the accuracy of the ground hog's prediction.

Enid may soon have a magnificent Y. M. C. A. building to be erected principally by the Frisco railway.

The real danger in this sort of weather is a killing freeze later which may destroy the bulk of the fruit crop.

Bartlesville is looking forward to the completion of many public improvements and private residences this year.

Reports from Bryan county are to the effect that several horses in that county have been afflicted with blind staggers.

Henry W. Lawton Encampment No. 6, Spanish War Veterans, has been organized at Lawton with a membership of twenty-four.

Judge Hudson of the district court at Bartlesville admits he has been out of Oklahoma but twice since the state was admitted to statehood.

Already having municipal light and water systems which it is said, are paying well, Sayre is now going after a municipal telephone system.

A committee of baseball fans started a subscription list to raise \$2,000 in order that Ardmore fans might witness baseball the coming season.

It is about time someone came forward with the first robin-of-the-season gag. That's all that's needed now to complete the assurances of an early spring.

The newly constructed schoolhouse at Bluejacket was destroyed by fire of an unknown origin, entailing a complete loss of \$18,000, with \$3,000 insurance.

Hobart is soon to have a Baptist church. Plans for the structure have been approved and the ground is being cleared preparatory to excavation work being started.

When the home of W. C. Rodgers, principal chief of the Cherokee nation, was destroyed by fire, valuable papers, data, relics and mementoes of the tribe in the chief's custody were consumed by the flames. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Smoked glasses will be quite popular in Oklahoma this year. There are due five eclipses of the sun and two of the moon this year. The first eclipse will be a total one, and the moon will be the central figure. It will occur March 22.

Oklahoma will be well represented in Washington during the inaugural. Likewise the people in that section are going to know more about this great state after the return of the Oklahoma boosters than they knew before.

Two burglars entered the postoffice at Hominy and secured a number of stamps and a small amount in cash. Entrance was gained by prying open the rear door.

The oil and gas fever is spreading over the state like wildfire, and from the present rate it will not be long before test wells are being drilled in practically every county in the state.

The presence of six wild dogs in the Fish Creek and Glen Oak districts of Washington county is causing the farmers much uneasiness. They are said to resemble wolves and are exceedingly vicious. One had herding cattle claims to have been chased by the pack, and saved himself only by climbing to the top of a high fence.

Divorces alimony is to be tried out in Comanche, if Mrs. J. M. Cunningham gets favorable action on a suit filed in the district court at Lawton. She alleges her husband, J. W. Cunningham, has deserted her and their five children, and left all penniless and wards of her brother. She asks alimony in the sum of \$2,000 and \$100 for immediate needs.



### EDITORS IN THE LEGISLATURE

Thirteen Oklahoma newspaper men are at the state capital for a sixty days' sojourn—which, being interpreted, means that an even dozen Oklahoma editors are in Oklahoma City in attendance upon the state legislature as members and the thirteenth, C. S. Gilkerson, editor of the Waurika News-Democrat, has been selected to fill one of the important appointive positions.

All of the legislators shown in the picture are either active in newspaper work or have been very recently.

M. S. Blasingame is from Sallisaw; H. H. Sherman hails from Mannford; Shawnee is the home of C. F. Barrett; J. R. Williams is elected from Lawton; Chas. B. Peters comes from Hominy; E. L. Mitchell's home is in Cheyenne; Tom G. Taylor is editor and owner of the Democrat-Record, Idabel; Senator F. W. Anderson is publisher of the Waurika News; A. M. Crorey comes from Cornish; Senator W. R. Dutton is from Foraker; I. L. Cook is from Atoka, and Andrew Allen Veatch is editor of the Remonstrator, Tishomingo.

#### Redistricting Bill Reported

Oklahoma county is given two senators and divided into two districts under the terms of the senatorial redistricting bill by Edwards, Bolen and Sharp, reported favorably by a committee of the house. Under the present apportionment Oklahoma and Canadian counties are one district with two senators.

The republicans on the senatorial and judicial redistricting committee, George M. Disney and Fred B. Hoyt, reported a substitute bill representing the views of the minority.

The new apportionment plan creates forty-four districts with one senator from each and according to the authors of the bill is not in any sense a gerrymander. It merely attempts to comply with the constitutional requirement for one senator for each 37,000 population, according to Representative Bolen.

The senatorial districts as contemplated under the bill would be as follows:

First district, Beaver, Texas and Cimarron; Second, Harper, Ellis and Roger Mills; Third, Woods and Woodward; Fourth, Alfalfa and Major; Fifth, Grant and Kay; Sixth, Garfield; Seventh, Noble and Payne; Eighth, Osage and Pawnee; Ninth, Washington and Rogers; Tenth, Nowata and Creek; Eleventh, Mayes, Delaware and Ottawa; Twelfth, Sequoyah and Adair; Thirteenth, Wagoner and Cherokee; Fourteenth, Tulsa; Fifteenth, Creek and Okfuskee; Sixteenth, Lincoln; Seventeenth, Logan; Eighteenth, Canadian and Kingfisher; Nineteenth, Blaine and Dewey; Twentieth, Custer and Washita; Twenty-first, Caddo; Twenty-second, Grady; Twenty-third, East Oklahoma County district; Twenty-fourth, West Oklahoma County district; Twenty-fifth, Cleveland and McClain; Twenty-sixth, Pottawatomie; Twenty-seventh, Okfuskee and Hughes; Twenty-eighth, Okmulgee and McIntosh; Twenty-ninth, Muskogee; Thirtieth, LeFlore and Pushmataha; Thirty-first, Haskell and Latimer; Thirty-second, Pittsburg; Thirty-third, McClurtain and Choctaw; Thirty-fourth, Atoka and Coal; Thirty-fifth, Bryan; Thirty-sixth, Johnston and Marshall; Thirty-seventh, Pontotoc and Seminoe; Thirty-eighth, Garvin and Murray; Thirty-ninth, Comanche and Stephens; Fortieth, Jefferson and Cotton; Forty-first, Kiowa and Greer; Forty-second, Carter and Love; Forty-third, Tillman and Jackson; Forty-fourth, Beckham and Harmon.

#### Russell Offers to Reduce Cost

State Senator Campbell Russell has put it up to the board of regents of the state A. and M. College and G. T. Bryan, president of the board of agriculture that the cost of living to the students of the state institution is too high and to show that he means what he says he offers to conduct the dormitories at a much lower rate per student. Senator Russell agrees to forfeit \$250 to the common school fund if he cannot carry out his plan to the satisfaction of the students, both as to the quality of food and the service rendered.

In a letter to President Bryan of the board of agriculture, Senator Russell calls attention to the answer made by Mr. Bryan to the senate interrogatories in regard to the cost of conducting the dormitories of the state A. and M. College. According to the report, Mr. Bryan had stated that it was the policy of the institution to charge each pupil in the dormitories only a pro rata share of the cost actually incurred in the maintenance. This

amounts to \$17 a month, \$14 for table board and \$3.09 a month for room rent.

Senator Russell believes this is too much, though he does not call in question the correctness of the statements made by the department. He says however, that one of the greatest lessons that should be inculcated in the youth is economy and that this lesson is not taught in the dormitories. "A difference of \$3.00 to \$4.00 per month in cost of board for each pupil," says Senator Russell in his letter, "is a matter of no small importance to many parents in this state, so much so in fact, that it is the determining factor in many homes, when the question of higher education for the children is under consideration."

In making his offer to reduce these expenses Senator Russell obligates himself to furnish all food supplies, prepare and serve it for the sum of \$2.50 per student per week and stands ready to close the contract at any time.

#### After Gas Pipe Lines.

A bill to make gas pipe lines common carriers and to regulate the use of compressor pumps upon wells by the big pipe line companies was introduced in the house by H. H. Smith and others. Independent owners of gas wells are said to be the chief backers of the bill, the purpose of which is to prevent the pipe line companies from sinking a well and draining the gas out of a large number of private wells by the use of compressor pumps. Promoters of the bill claim that at present hundreds of wells owned by private individuals and small companies are being pumped dry through wells sunk by pipe line companies to supply gas to cities outside the state. By requiring the gas pipe line companies to be common carriers it is claimed that they will be forced to take all gas offered to them along any given line or a proportionate share of the production offered by each operator.

#### A State Sanitarium.

The house committees on appropriations and public health have agreed to make a joint report recommending for passage a bill for the establishment of a state tuberculosis sanitarium in Oklahoma. The bill carries appropriations for buildings and maintenance aggregating over \$100,000. Dr. J. C. Mahr, state commissioner of health, stated that there are more than 800 deaths each year in Oklahoma from tuberculosis and that the white plague is more to be feared than smallpox.

#### For Insurance Rates

A bill introduced in the senate by Barrett of Pottawatomie county would confer jurisdiction on the corporation commission relative to fire insurance rates in the state. It would give the commission power to investigate all complaints of alleged unreasonable rate in case circumstances justified, and prevent discrimination in rates.

#### Passenger Fare Bill Is Favored

The 2 1/2-cent railroad fare bill, which the senate passed last week, has been favorably reported by the committee on public service corporations of the house and is now on the calendar there for consideration. Senator Vandeventer of Bartlesville is the author of the bill and its chances for passage in the house are said to be good. Joyner's bill, to make the question of abolition of township government a matter of local option in the various counties, that is, by vote of the county, was reported out favorably by the committee on county and township organization and government, of which Charles B. Peters is chairman.

New bills in the house include a very comprehensive food, drug and disinfectant bill by Messrs. Dearing and Wright, said to have been prepared in part at least, by the assistance of Dr. J. C. Mahr, state commissioner of health.

The bill proposes, in brief, to put a license tax for revenue purposes upon most patent medicines and beverages, and certain classes of foods, such as powdered milk, and dehydrated eggs and to require an inspection fee from slaughter houses, the purpose of the bill being to make the department of health self-sustaining, and at the same time to put all patent medicines, disinfectants and the like under its supervision and that of the state bacteriological department.

A resolution by H. H. Smith, calling upon the state treasurer for information as to all money paid into the state treasury as fines for violations of the pure food and drug laws, indicates that Mr. Smith wants to know whether that source of revenue is proving very profitable or not.

Among the new bills introduced in the senate was one by Edmonson reviving the fight to abolish the state highway department, and another defining what are habitual criminals, providing for sentencing them to the penitentiary for life if convicted a certain number of times for committing offenses wherein the element of fraud or felony enters.

#### Farris' Trial Begun

The trial of State Printer Giles W. Farris before the senate sitting as a court of impeachment was started with the opening statements of counsel for each side, setting forth the evidence they will produce, and what it will show. The facts connected with the different charges against Farris which counsel for each side announced it would produce testimony to substantiate, practically are the same as those brought out in the recent trial of Farris before a justice of the peace.

About twenty-five witnesses, some of them summoned by both sides, answered when their names were called, and were sworn in, while there were a great many more who were not present.

Witnesses who testified were R. C. Cain, an employee of the state auditor's office; Walter D. Caldwell, president of the City State bank of Oklahoma City; Carl Hammer, cashier of the Wilkin-Hale State bank; William Stryker, editor of the Tulsa Daily Democrat, who had the contract for printing the now famous "Red Book," and J. F. Shearman of Wichita, Kansas, an expert on handwriting.

#### Testimony of Stryker

Stryker testified that the three warrants, aggregating \$2,500, and made payable to the Democrat Publishing company of Tulsa were never signed by him and that no one representing his company was authorized to sign them.

He testified further that he nor no one authorized to represent his company had made claims against the state for this amount, and that he had never received the money for them. The warrants bear the signature of Stryker and the Tulsa Democrat Publishing Co.

#### Lankford Clears Cruce of Blame

Assuming the responsibility of employing the firm of Stuart and Cruce to represent the bank department of Oklahoma, declaring that Governor Cruce had no connection whatever in the employment of these attorneys and setting forth that the statutes allow the hiring of legal assistance, State Bank Commissioner J. D. Lankford presented to the senate a lengthy report answering the interrogatories contained in a resolution introduced in the senate by Senator Jones.

The report shows that the firm was authorized to act as the legal representative of the board after the attorney general had stated that his force was inadequate to carry on the work and that it was employed in March, 1911, and continued in the service until September, 1912, when it resigned. A fee of \$5,000 a year was set by the board as the compensation for its services. Mr. Lankford sets forth that the firm of Stuart and Cruce represented the department in litigation involving approximately \$500,000.

The J. B. Wells' potato house in Hartshorne was destroyed by fire last week and together with it 4,500 bushels of spuds. The loss is estimated at \$10,000, with but \$5,000 insurance.